

DWL ADVOCACY PROGRAM 2021

INFORMATION BOOKLET

HSF X DWL MOOT

HSF X DWL WITNESS EXAMINATION COMPETITION





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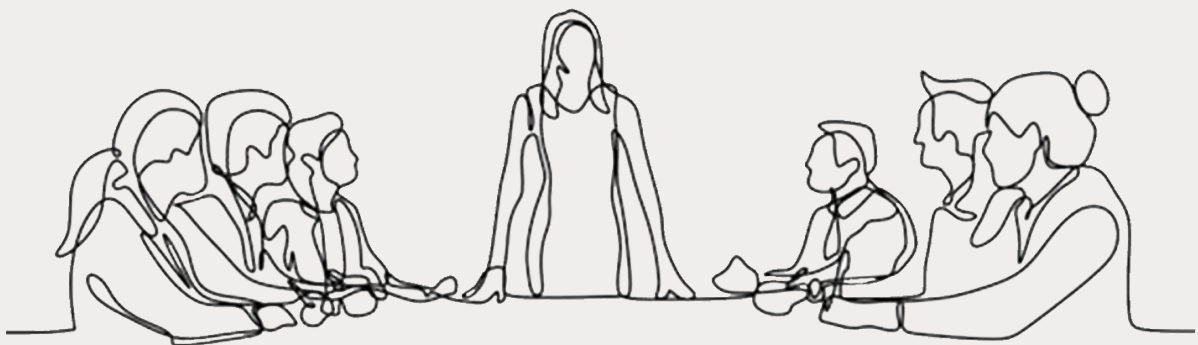
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OVERVIEW



Diverse Women in Law (DWL), in conjunction with sponsor firm Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF), is excited to deliver the inaugural DWL Advocacy Program. This comprises the civil law Moot (Moot), and criminal law Witness Examination Competition (Witness Examination) (together the DWL Advocacy Program). **This initiative promotes intersectionality, diversity and inclusion.** DWL students can gain advocacy and alternative dispute resolution skills, meet peers from diverse backgrounds, and network with accomplished legal advocates.

The Advocacy Program is scheduled to take place between **15 September and 6 October 2021** and will feature:

- preliminary, semi final and grand final rounds of the Moot and Witness Examination; and
- networking opportunities where DWL students and participants can engage with practitioners, barristers and judges.

Through last year's launch (which was since postponed due to Covid-19), DWL has selected its 2021 competitors - eight teams of three people for the Moot and eight one person-teams for the Witness Examination. All participants identify as **Diverse Women** and have been selected from a cross section of NSW universities.

The DWL Advocacy Program will take place at the HSF Sydney offices. Both the Moot and Witness Examination will be held in person.

SUMMARY OF DATES

Day 1: Wednesday 15th September @ 5pm

Day 2: Thursday 16th September @ 5pm

Day 3: Friday 17th September @ 5pm

Day 4: Tuesday 28 September @ 5pm

Day 5: Wednesday 29 September @ 5pm

Day 6: Wednesday 6th October @ 5pm



MOOT OVERVIEW

One moot team comprises three students. Each team is connected with a barrister to assist them in preparation for the Moot. The coaching session occurs at a mutually convenient time before the Moot rounds. Beyond this session, students are welcome to organise additional coaching sessions.

The Moot involves written and oral submissions focused on a tort law problem. For the preliminary rounds, all teams moot twice, once on each side. The two preliminary rounds are followed by Semi-Finals and Grand Finals. Each round is scheduled for 90 minutes.

Teams are awarded scores by judges. Written submissions are judged separately, prior to oral submissions to ensure consistency in marking. The highest scoring team wins each round. In determining progression, organisers first look at the number of wins of each team, and then to the point margins of their rounds.

Role of Coaches

- Coaches assist with oral and written advocacy skills
- Written memorandum: Students to complete research, drafting and final editing of memorandum themselves (without assistance). Coaches can comment on persuasiveness of submissions and help to identify issues.
- Oral hearings: No restriction on amount of coaching a team receives in preparation for oral submissions. Coaches can query, question and test students on how well they know facts and precedent surrounding particular points of law.





WITNESS EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

Competitors take on the role of a barrister in a simulated criminal trial, examining and cross-examining witnesses. Two competing students represent Counsel for the Defence and Prosecution. The competition tests students' ability to develop a case theory and understand evidentiary issues. Competitors are bound by the rules of evidence and must act within those parameters.

Witness Examination does not require prolonged formal preparation. Students are given the relevant materials and witness statements prior to the competition round. Each competitor has their own volunteer witness, whom they meet for 30 minutes before the 'trial'. Witnesses are DWL volunteers.

Each round involves a new factual scenario. The two preliminary rounds allow students to represent both Counsel, for different factual scenarios. This is followed by Semi-Finals and Grand Finals. Teams are awarded scores by judges. The highest scoring team wins each round.

The competition round is structured as a defended hearing and proceeds as follows:

1. Appearances
2. Opening by Prosecution: 2 mins
3. Examination in Chief by Prosecution: 10 mins
4. Cross-Examination by Defence: 15 mins
5. Opening by Defence: 2 mins
6. Examination in Chief by Defence: 10 mins
7. Cross Examination by Prosecution: 15 mins
8. Break before closing address: 3 mins
9. Closing address by Prosecution: 3 mins
10. Closing address by Defence: 3 mins



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

CIVIL MOOT

ROUND	DATE	TIME
PRELIMINARY ROUND 1	WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER	5-7 PM
PRELIMINARY ROUND 2	FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER	5-7 PM
SEMI FINALS	WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER	5-7 PM
GRAND FINALS & AWARDS CEREMONY	WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER	5-8 PM

WITNESS EXAMINATION

ROUND	DATE	TIME
PRELIMINARY ROUND 1	THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER	5-7 PM
PRELIMINARY ROUND 2	TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER	5-7 PM
SEMI FINALS	WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER	5-7 PM
GRAND FINALS & AWARDS CEREMONY	WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER	5-8 PM



THE DWL ADVOCACY PROGRAM: A BUSINESS CASE

LAW SCHOOL COMPETITIONS ARE A STRONG TRADITION AND ARE ONE OF THE OLDEST FORMS OF LEGAL TRAINING

Law school advocates have an 'edge'. They possess knowledge of the law and court procedure, can research and work through complex issues, make sense of precedent and apply legal principles to make persuasive arguments in novel and creative ways to solve legal problems. However, law school competitions are often male-dominated, and can be hostile and intimidating to the female voice. The advocacy environment often belongs to an insular student community. It can be an inhospitable place for those who do not fit the archetype, namely diverse women.



THE BAR IS NOT VISIBLY REPRESENTATIVE OF A CROSS- SECTION OF SOCIETY

Diversity is vital for law school competitions because budding student advocates tend to pursue careers at the Bar, the main feeder profession for the judiciary. Currently, 23.41% of practising barristers in NSW are women. 11.86% of Senior Counsel in NSW are women. Our purpose is to make the Bar more inclusive and representative by providing DWL students with the necessary skills and confidence to pursue careers in this underrepresented space.



THE DWL ADVOCACY PROGRAM: A BUSINESS CASE

'MARKET GAP'

There is no existing intervarsity moot or witness examination competition that caters solely to Diverse Women and provides them with targeted advocacy skills and coaching. The DWL Advocacy Program fills this gap. Indeed, it is the first of its kind. This unique, inaugural initiative celebrates diversity and addresses the challenges that exist in this space. Barrister coaches impart skills and help DWL students see advocacy as a viable career path. Competitors and Workshop participants develop the advocacy skills, confidence and strong industry connections so that they can eventually become advocates for diversity and change.

**"SEND A MESSAGE TO THOSE
FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS:
IF YOU ARE BRIGHT,
ARTICULATE AND HARD
WORKING YOU WILL SUCCEED
AT THE BAR REGARDLESS OF
YOUR GENDER, ETHNIC OR
CULTURAL BACKGROUND"**

INGMAR TAYLOR, SC

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